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ABSTRACT

Recommended for use in classrooms (no specific grade level is assigned) throughout Alaska, this base E sized wall map (4 feet by 3 feet) is color coded (number coded for the ERIC system) to reflect the 20 Alaska Native languages. Designating language dialect areas and boundaries, this map details the language relationships of the four Eskimo languages; the Aleut, Tsimpshian, Haida, Tlingit, and Eyak languages; and the Athabascan languages. Two insets illustrate the spread of Athabascan and Eskimo throughout North America and designate Alaskan language relationships, populations, and numbers of speakers. A text at the bottom of the map presents a thumbnail sketch of the Native languages and the present bilingual movement. Since this map has been disassembled for purposes of ERIC reproduction, instructions for reassembling the map are included. Ordering information is also provided. (JC)

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A MAP OF THE NATIVE PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES OF ALASKA

Compiled by Michael E. Krauss
and produced by the Alaska Native Language Center
a division of the Center for Northern Educational Research

University of Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

1974

This base E sized wall map (4'x3') is color coded to reflect the 20 Alaska Native languages. Listed are the four Eskimo languages, Aleut, Tsimpshian, Haida, Tlingit, Eyak and 11 Athabascan languages. The language dialect areas and boundaries are clearly shown giving an impression of the relationship between the languages.

The map also shows every Native village and town, with a designation for the present status of the language. There are also two insets: one showing the spread of Athabascan and Eskimo throughout North America, and the other a color key and table of language relationships, populations, and numbers of speakers. There is also a text at the bottom of the map giving a thumbnail sketch of the general history of the Alaska Native languages and the present bilingual movement.

The map is meant to be as informative as possible and is recommended for use in classrooms throughout Alaska as a teaching tool.

In the ERIC system the map is keyed by number rather than color.

Full color copies of the map area available for $3.50 plus postage and mailer costs from the Alaska Native Center.

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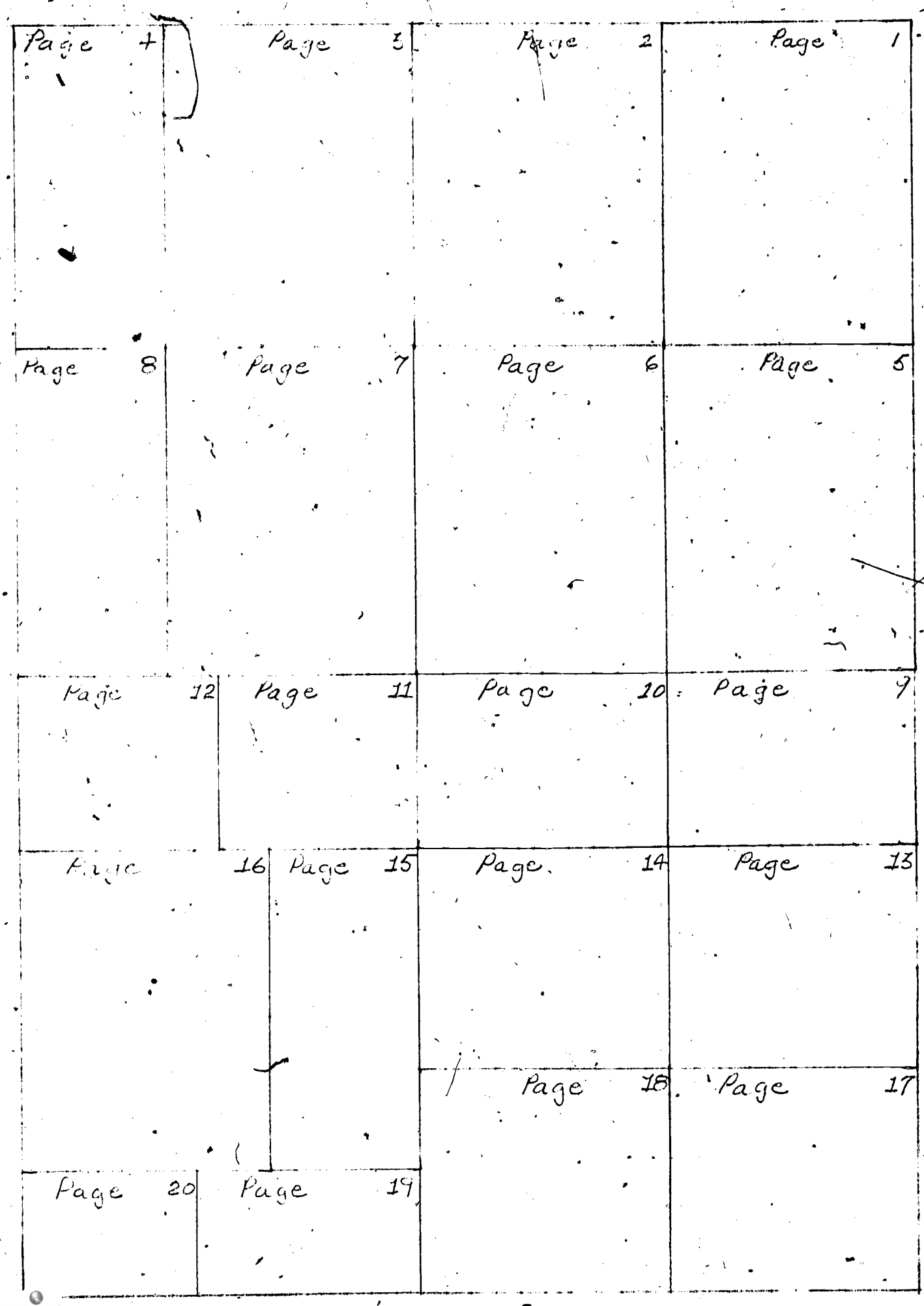


GUIDE FOR REASSEMBLING MAP

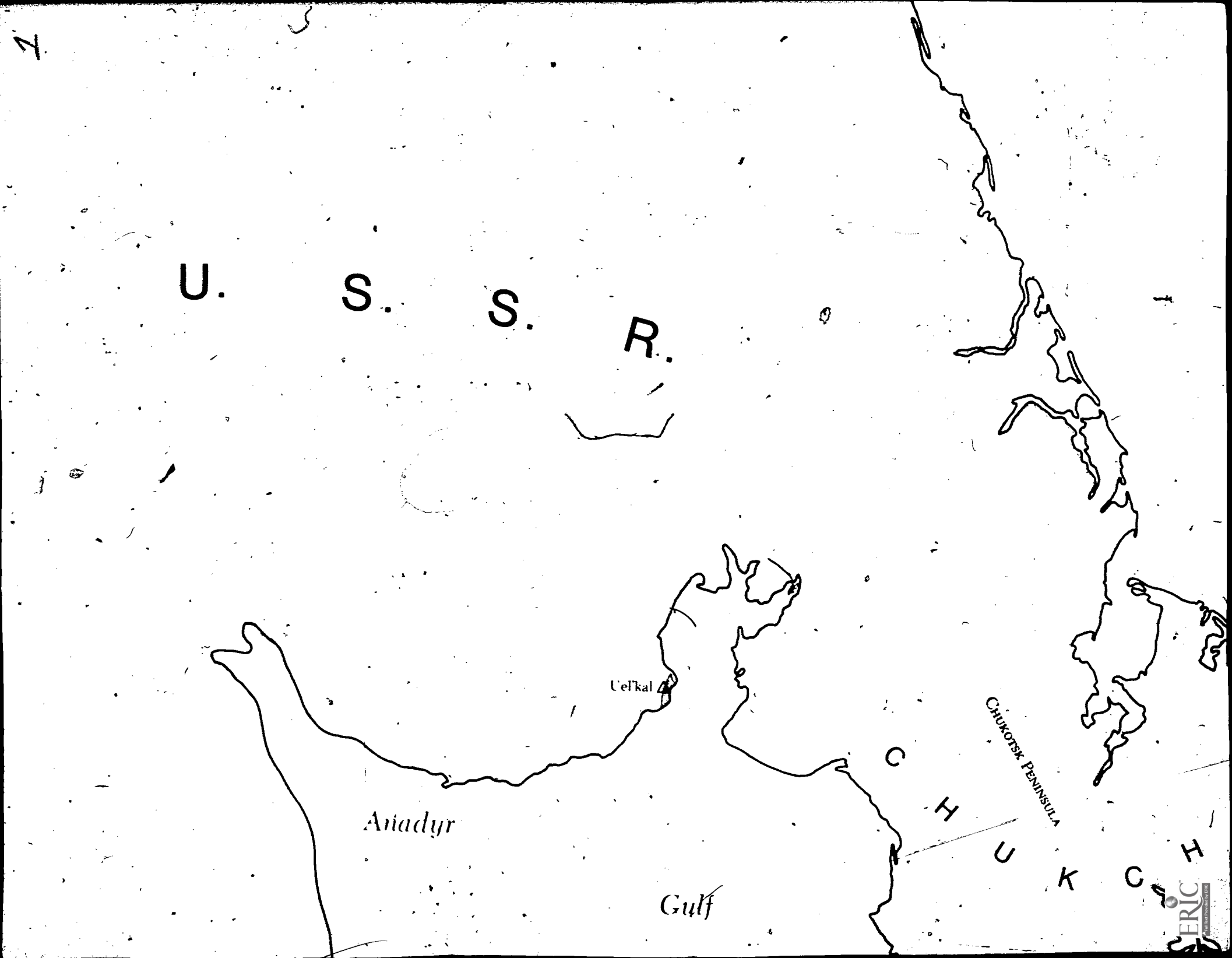
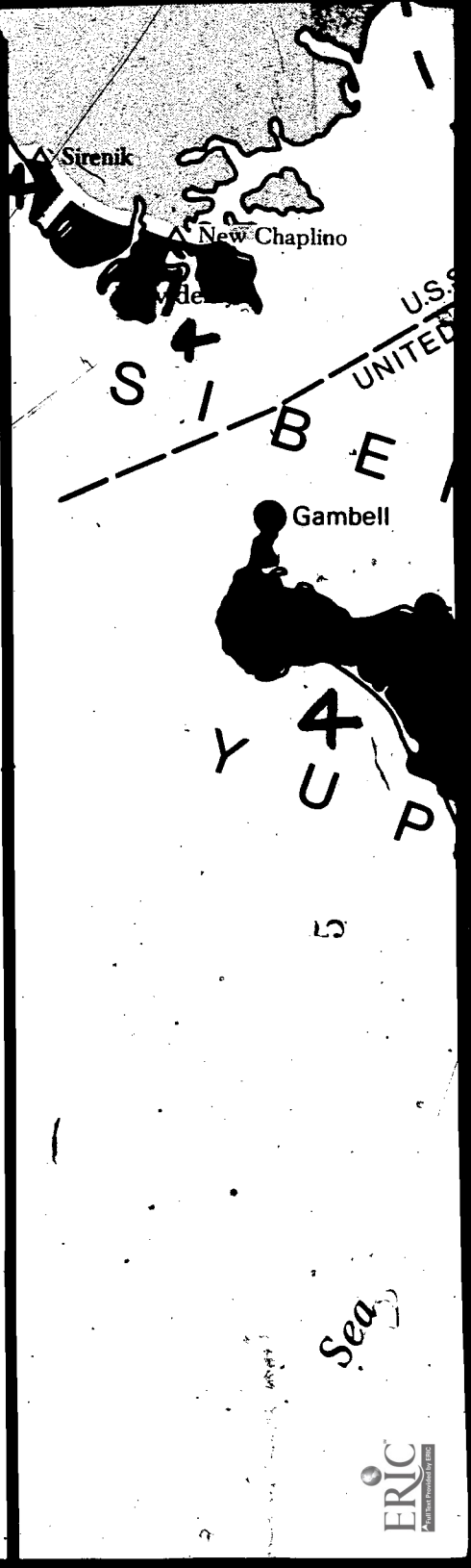
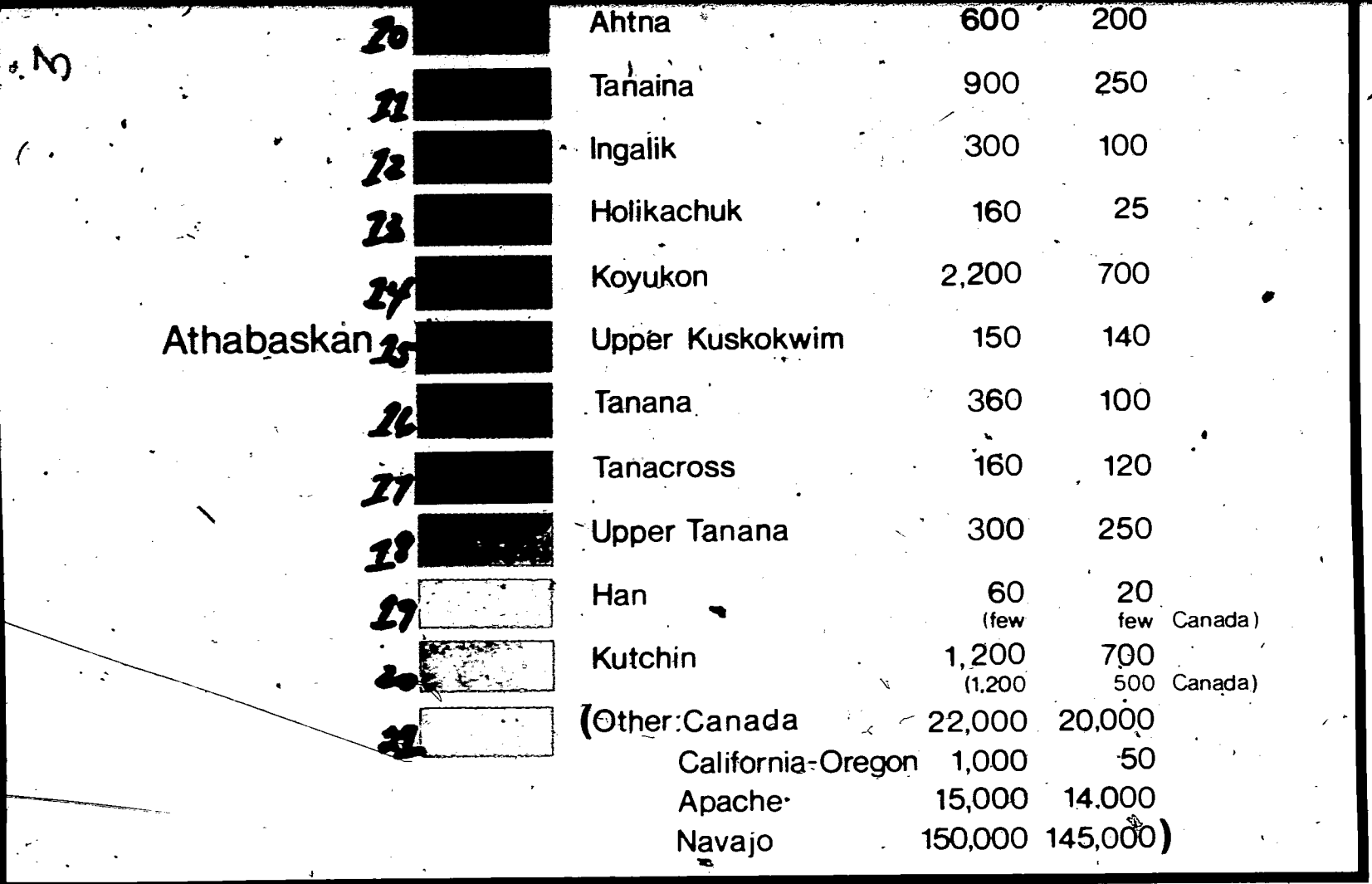

U. S. S. R.
Uel'kal
Anadyr
Gulf
CHUKOTSK PENINSULA
CHUKCHI

Table of Language Groups

Language Family		Language Names	Population	Number Speaking	
Eskimo-Aleut					
Aleut	1	Aleut	2,000 (400	700 40	U.S.S.R)
Eskimo	2	Sugpiaq	3,000	1,000	
	3	Central Yupik	17,000	15,000	
	4	Siberian Yupik	1,000 (1,200	1,000 800	U.S.S.R.)
	5	Inupiaq	11,000 (18,000 (41,000	6,000 17,000 41,000	Canada) Greenland)
Tsimshian	6	Tsimshian	1,000 (8,000	200 3,500	Canada)
Haida	7	Haida	500 (1,200	100 200	Canada)
Tlingit	8	Tlingit	9,000 (500	2,000 200	Canada)
Athabaskan-Eyak					
Eyak	9	Eyak	20	3	





10	Ahtna	600	200
11	Tanaina	900	250
12	Ingalik	300	100
13	Holikachuk	160	25
14	Koyukon	2,200	700
Athabaskan 15	Upper Kuskokwim	150	140
16	Tanana	360	100
17	Tanacross	160	120
18	Upper Tanana	300	250
19	Han	60 (few	20 few Canada)
20	Kutchin	1,200 (1,200	700 500 Canada)
21	(Other: Canada	22,000	20,000
	California-Oregon	1,000	50
	Apache	15,000	14,000
	Navajo	150,000	145,000)

Bering

6

1 St. Paul

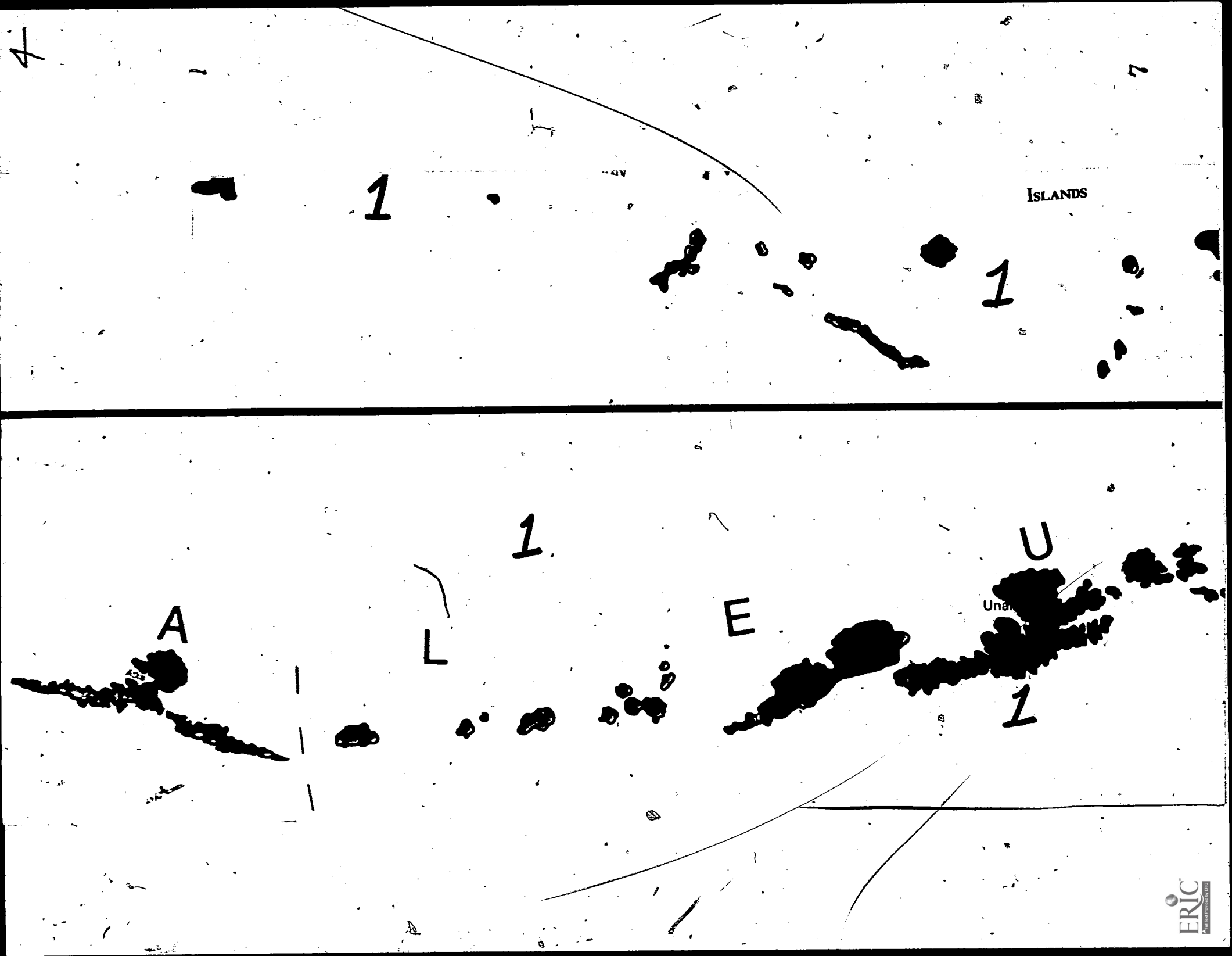
PRIBILOF ISLANDS

1 St. George

1

ATTU

ALEUTIAN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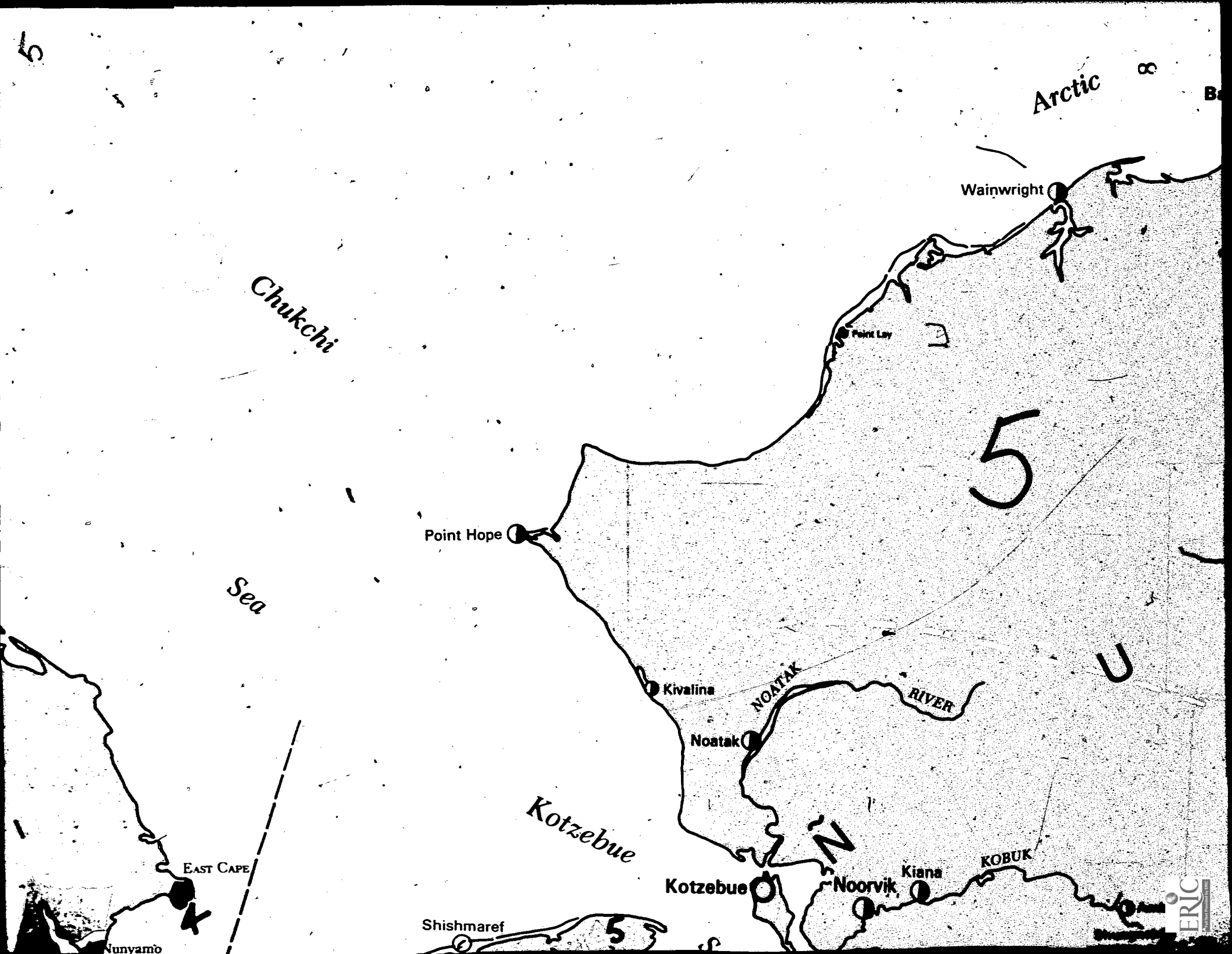
Arctic
Wainwright
Point Lay
Chukchi
Sea
Point Hope
Kivalina
NOATAK
RIVER
Noatak
Kotzebue
Kotzebue
Noorvik
Kiana
KOBUK
EAST CAPE
Shishmaref
Nunyamo

Diomede
Wales
Deering
Buckland
Shishmaref
Brevig Mission
Teller
KING ISLAND
SEWARD PENINSULA
Nome
White Mountain
Elim
Koyuk
Savoonga
Shaktoolik
Norton
Sound
Unalakleet
Stebbins
Alakanuk
Hooper Bay
STATES

Tununa
Mekoryuk
Kwigillingok
LAKE ILIA
Ekuk
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Egegi
Bristol
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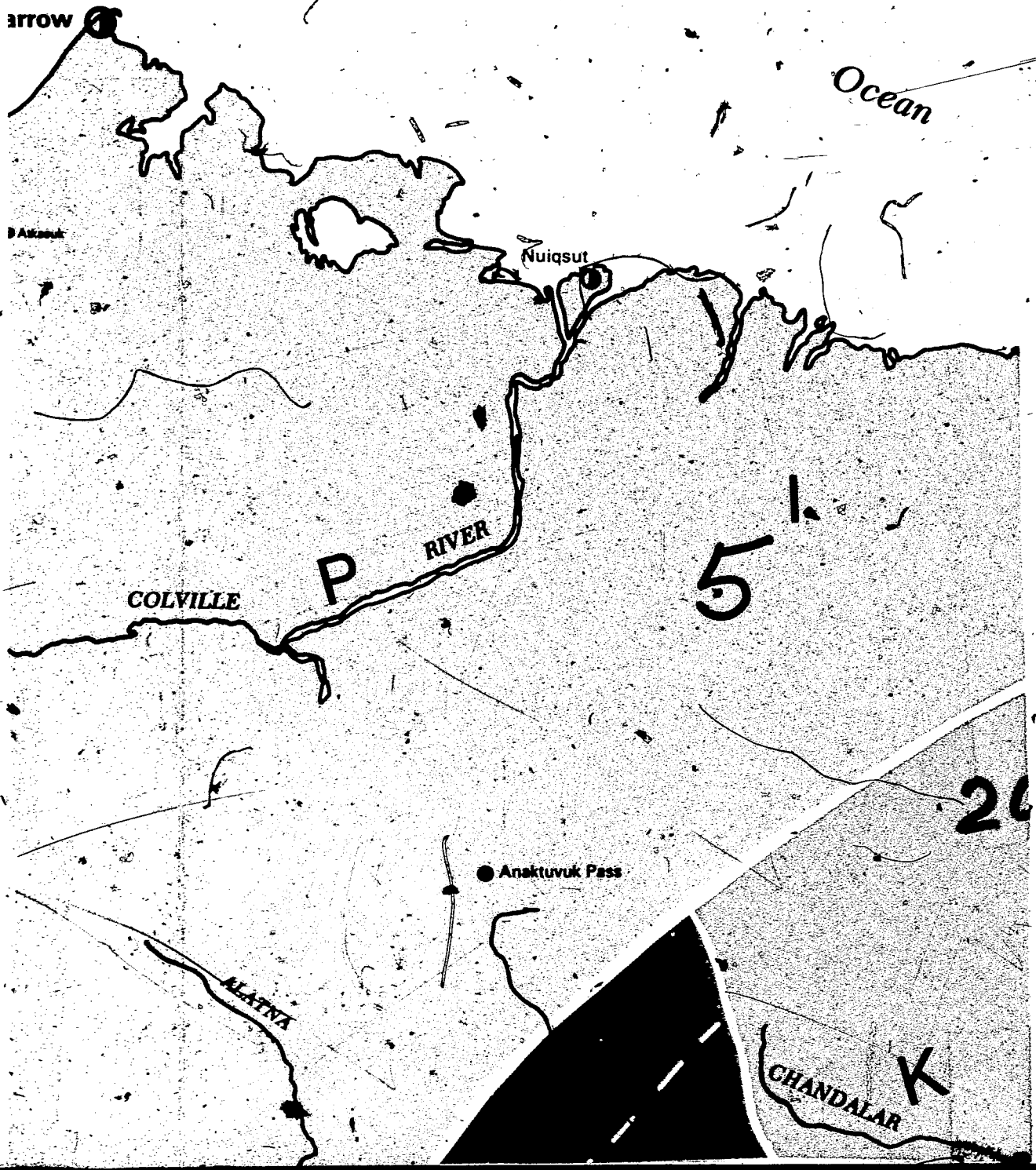
Karlu
1

ADAK
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik
Nelson
Squaw Harbor
SHUMAGIN ISLANDS


arrow
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RIVER
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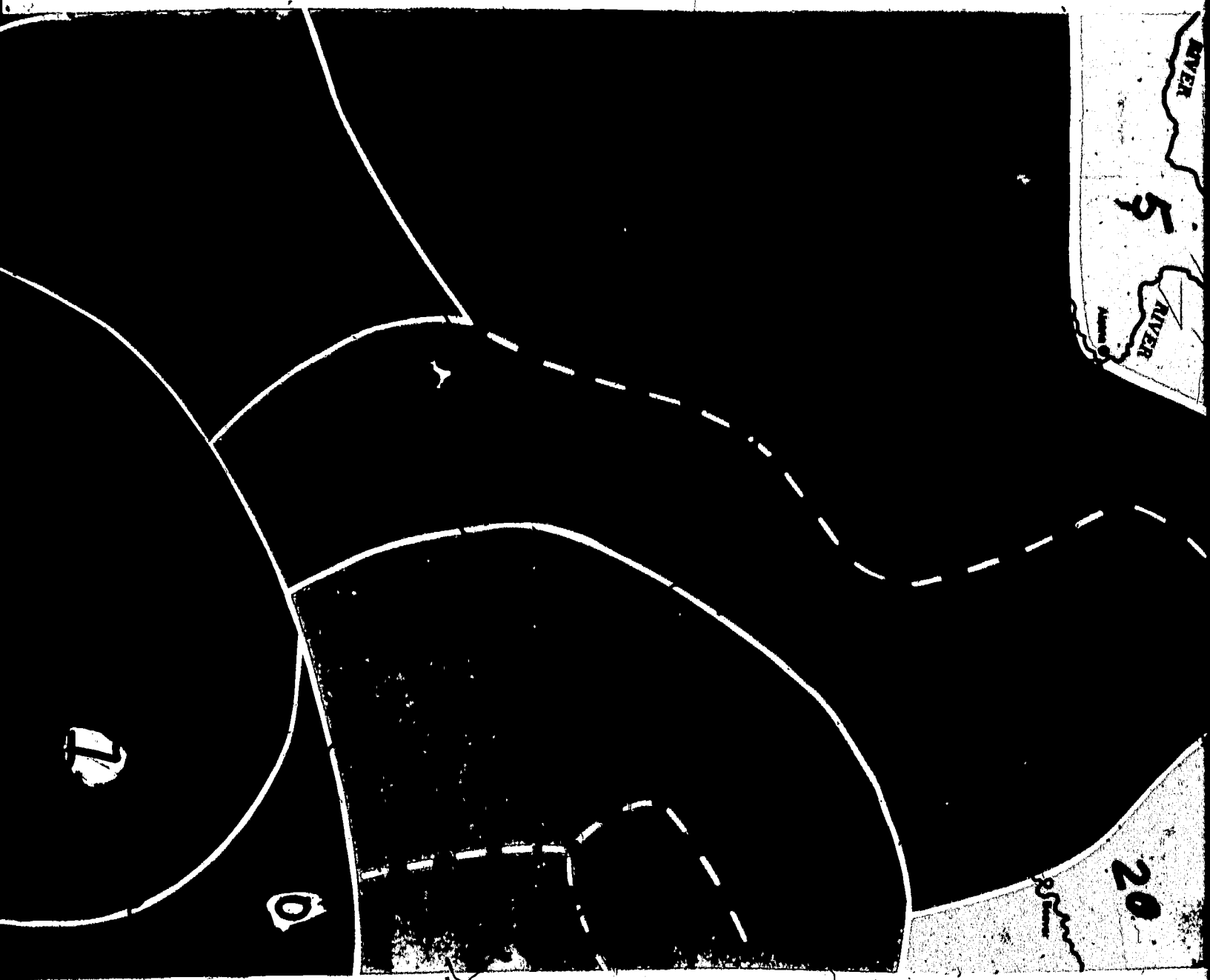
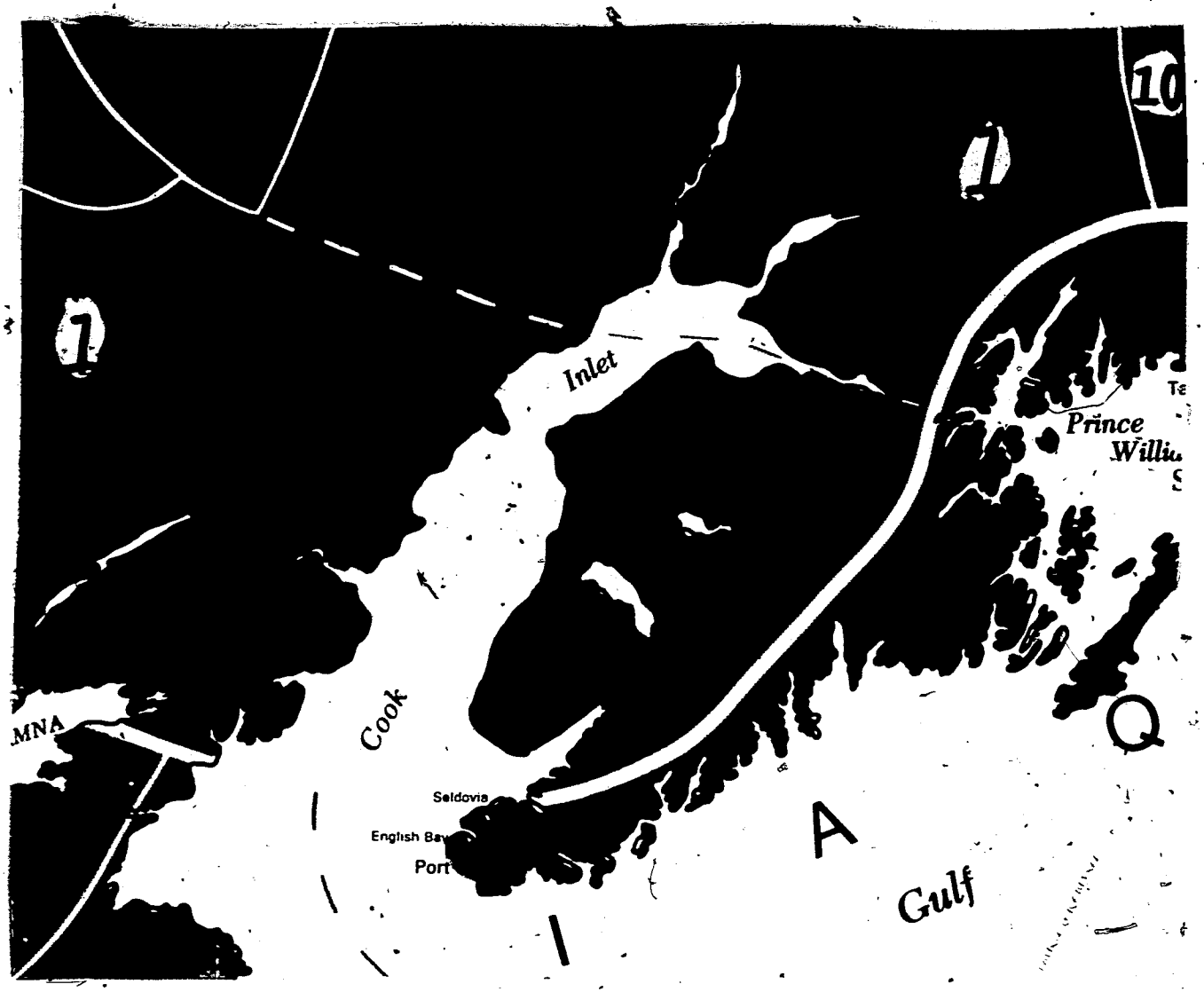
Anaktuvuk Pass
ALATNA
CHANDALAR
K


RIVER
5
RIVER
20


10
7
Inlet
Prince
Cook
Seldovia
English Bay
Port
A
Gulf

Nat
Lang

This map shows what language is spoken in each native village. Only native villages and towns with over 10 per cent native populations are shown. An indication of the size (1974 estimate) of the native population of each of these villages and towns is given as follows:

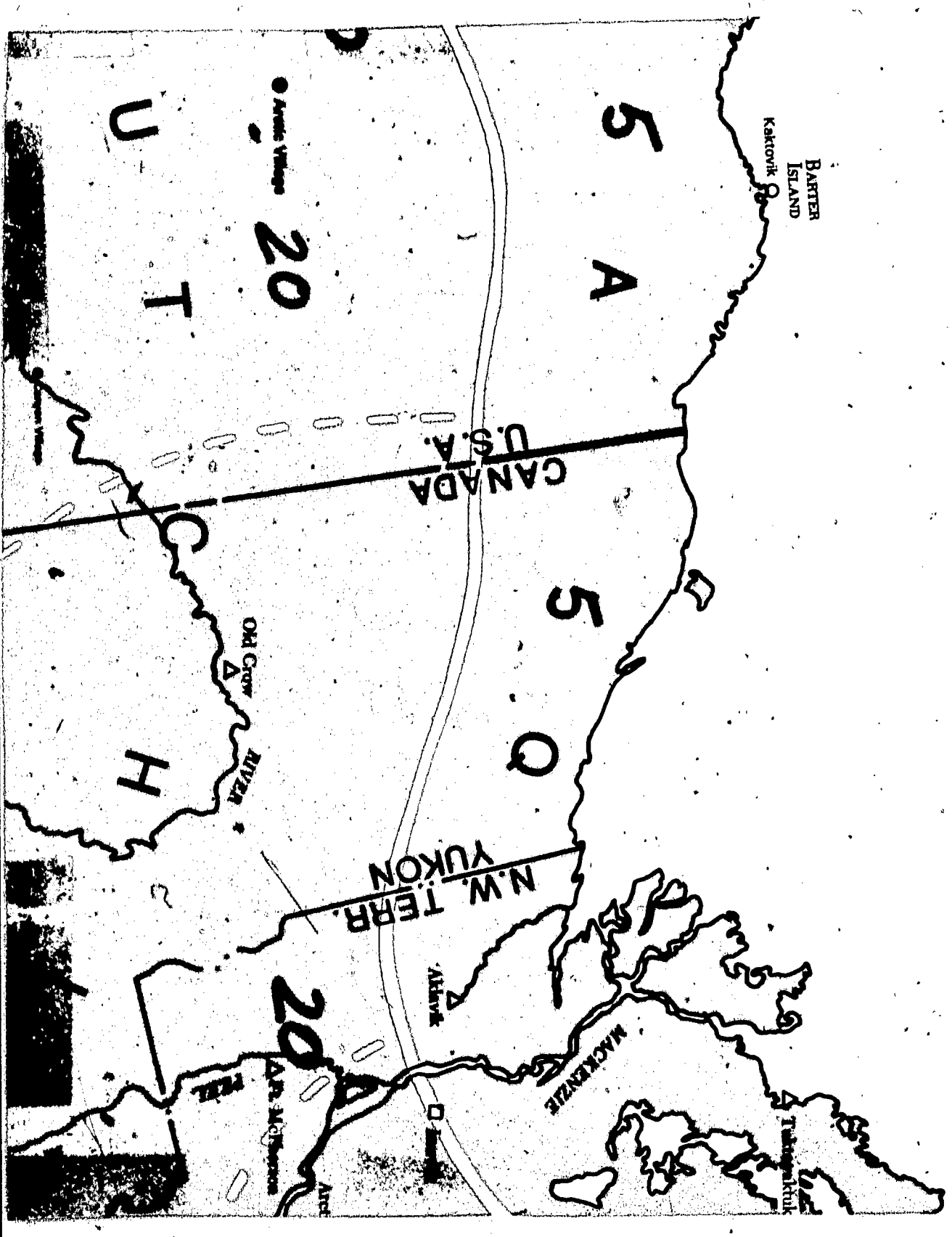
○ Nikolski	1 — 100	◑ Selawik	250 — 500
● Venetie	100 — 150	○ Hoonah	500 — 1000
○ Hydaburg	150 — 250	◑ **Bethel**	1000+

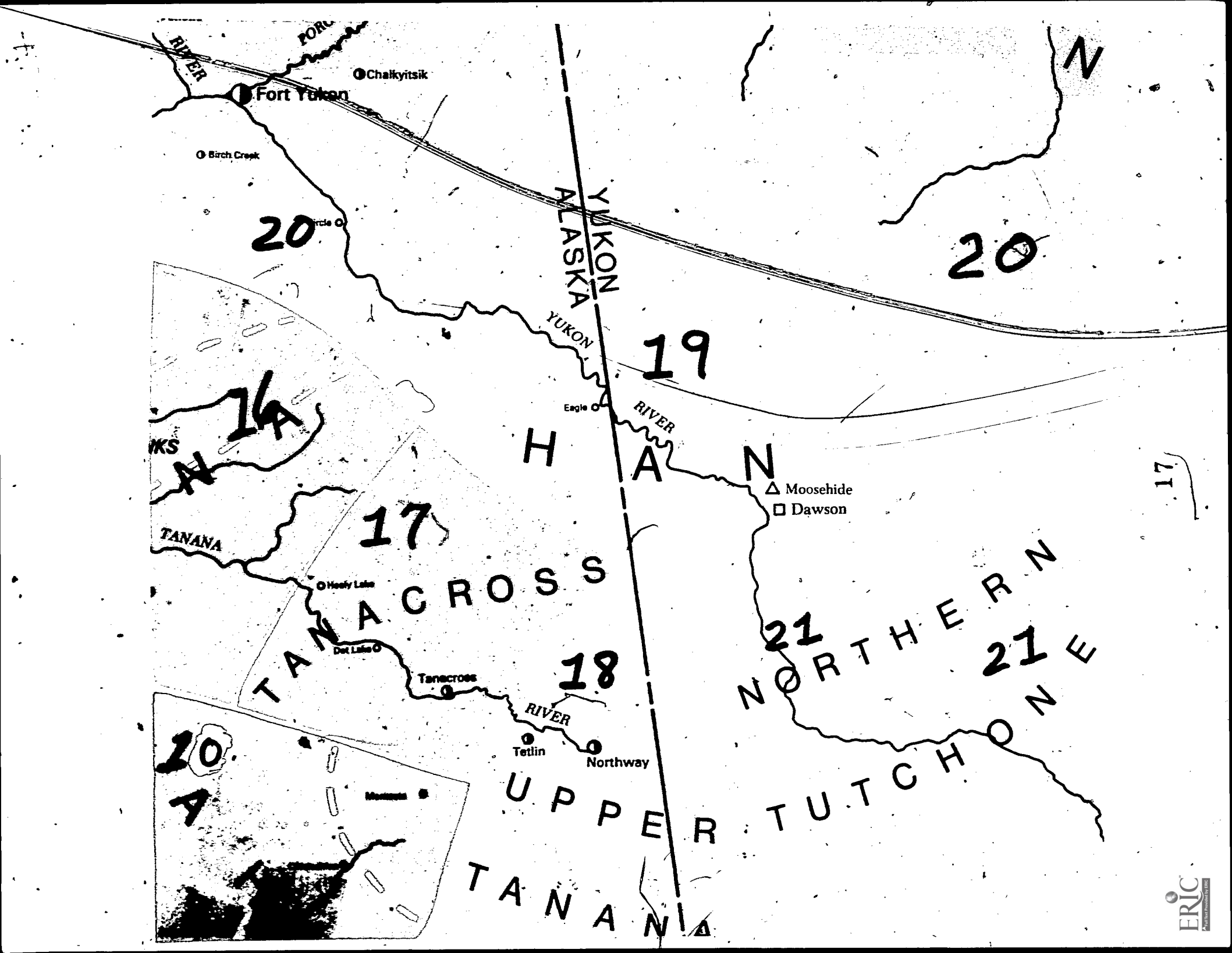
The extent to which the language has been passed on to the younger generation is also shown, as follows:

- ○ Very few or none of the children speak the language
- ◑ Some of the children speak the language
- ● Most or all of the children speak the language

Each area defined by a separate color represents a language area. Important dialect subdivisions within a language are shown by dashed lines.

The choice of colors is intended to give an impression of the relationships between the languages, with related or similar languages shown in similar colors.


BARTER ISLAND
Kaktovik
Arctic Village
U.S.A.
CANADA
Old Crow
RIVER
YUKON
N.W. TERR.
Aklavik
MACKENZIE
PEEL
Tuktoyaktuk



Chalkyitsik
Fort Yukon
Birch Creek
20
YUKON
ALASKA
YUKON
19
Eagle
RIVER
H A N
Moosehide
Dawson
16
A
N
TANANA
17
Healy Lake
TANACROSS
Dot Lake
Tanacross
18
RIVER
Tetlin
Northway
21
NORTHERN
21
UPPER TUTCHONE
TANANA
10
A
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20
17

Alaska
SOUTHERN
TUTCHONE
21

ve Peoples and guages of Alaska

Alaska Native Language Center

a division of the Center for Northern Educational Research

University of Alaska

Fairbanks, Alaska - 1974

Compiled by Michael E. Krauss

There are twenty Alaska native languages. Eskimo-Aleut is one language family, with Aleutian Aleut as one branch, and Eskimo as the other. There are four Eskimo languages in Alaska, three of them Yupik (Sugpiaq Aleut, Central Yupik, and Siberian Yupik) and the other Iñupiaq. Athabaskan-Eyak is another language family, with the nearly extinct Eyak as one branch, and all the Athabaskan languages as the other. There are eleven Athabaskan languages in Alaska, differing from each other to varying degrees. Tlingit is in some ways distantly related to Athabaskan and Eyak. Haida is a completely different language, spoken also in Canada. Tsimshian is also a completely different language, spoken mostly in Canada. The inset map of North America shows the great spread of Iñupiaq Eskimo across Canada and Greenland, and of Athabaskan through Canada, in Oregon and California, and in the Southwest (Navajo and Apache).

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None of the Alaska native languages were written before the coming of the Russians. The first written Alaskan language was Aleut, using a Slavonic alphabet. The first Aleut books were printed in 1824. By now, good writing systems have been developed for all Alaska native languages, and books have been printed in most of them.

Each Alaska native language has its own intricate beauty, a highly complex and regular grammar and enormous vocabulary. This has been developed by the people over the thousands of years they have lived in this area.

Recently the history of these languages has been tragic. From about 1900 until the 1960s, native languages were severely suppressed. Children were punished for speaking their native language in school. They were forced to abandon their language, in order to speak English only. In 1972, the Alaska State Legislature passed the Bilingual Education bill, giving children the right to use and cultivate their native language in school, and also established the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Many important developments are taking place now to maintain for future generations of Alaskans the precious heritage of their native languages and cultures.

A R E
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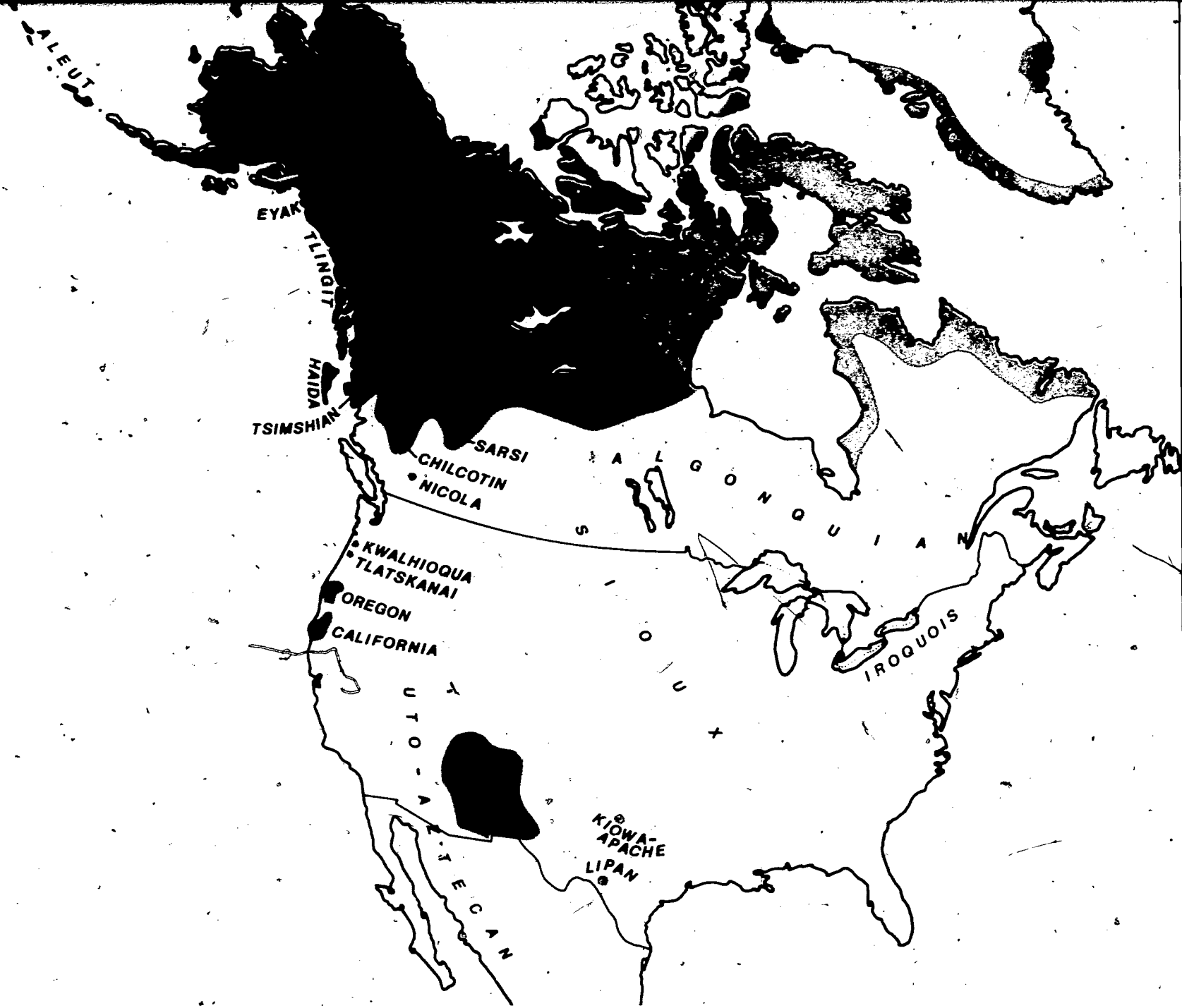
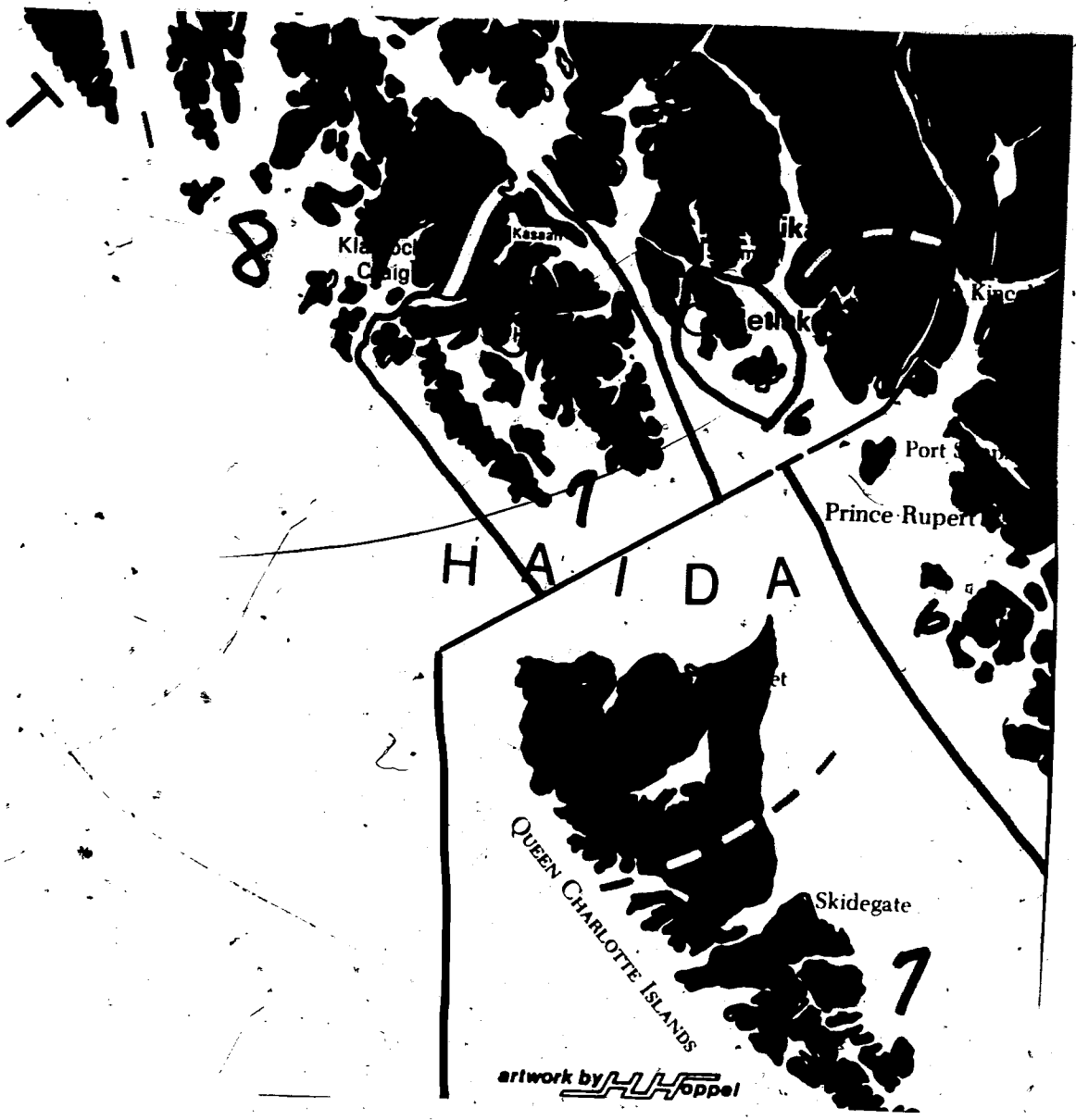
5



The Eskimo-Aleut language family has spread far beyond Alaska: Yupik Eskimo to Siberia, Iñupiaq Eskimo across Canada to Greenland, and more recently (1826) Aleut to the Commander Islands, USSR. The Athabaskan languages have also spread far beyond Alaska, through Canada, even to the Mexican border (Navajo and Apache), with several small groups (now mostly extinct) in between. As the Table of Language Groups shows, the populations speaking languages of Alaskan origin are now much greater elsewhere than in Alaska itself. More recently, Tlingit has spread into Canada, and Haida and Tsimshian have spread from Canada into Alaska.

TAHLTAN
21
RIVER
KASKA
27


Kasaan
Port
Prince Rupert
HAIDA
Queen Charlotte Islands
Skidegate
artwork by Hoppel